

**Abstract**

An apparatus and a method of the present invention positions an optical component among several optical components, which are arranged in a receiving device. The receiving device is rotatable about an axis or movable along a direction in such a way that an optical component is positionable and the receiving device is retainable in a retention position. A coding device having first and second coders and two detectors are also provided. Either the coding device or the two detectors are associated with the receiving device and the two detectors detect the first and second coders at spatially different points. The coding device is embodied in such a way that the two detectors detect the first coder simultaneously when the receiving device is in a retention position and no more than one detector detects the second coder when the receiving device is in a region between two adjacent retention positions.

~~The present invention concerns an apparatus and a method for positioning an optical component, several optical components being arranged in a receiving device (1); the receiving device (1) being rotatable about an axis (3) or movable along a direction in such a way that an optical component is positionable and the receiving device (1) retainable in a retention position corresponding thereto; a coding device (4) having coding means (5, 9), and two detectors (6, 7) detecting the coding means (5, 9), being provided; the coding device (4) or the two detectors (6, 7) being associated with the receiving device (1); and the two detectors (6, 7) detecting coding means (5, 9) at spatially different points; and in order to achieve detection of the position of the receiving device (1) with reduced component complexity for the coding means (4, 5, 9) and detection means (6, 7) as well as a decreased manufacturing time associated therewith, is characterized in that the coding device (4) is embodied in such a way that on the one hand the two detectors (6, 7) detect coding means (9) simultaneously when the receiving device (1) is located in a retention position; and on the other hand only one of the two detectors (6, 7) detects coding means (5) when the receiving device (1) is located in a region (16, 18) between two adjacent retention positions.~~

~~(FIG. 1)~~